

**From:** [Deputy Clerk](#)  
**To:** [Candice A; Deputy Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up Response: FOIA Request 19-174 - Candice Garcia - Due 10/2/19  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2019 4:27:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [Combined Budget Presentation FY 18-19.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon Candace,

I am sorry you are feeling frustrated and I hope I can offer an explanation that will be more satisfactory. When I stated that there is no documentation, that was in regards to the design process only. It was not in reference to the spending of funds. The Village does document its expenditures and it allows the public to partake in the planning of the budget. Each year, the Village Board and staff convene in multiple public meetings to plan for the next fiscal year's budget. Typically these meetings will occur twice a month starting in February and go through May. The committee that conducts these meetings is called the Finance Committee and all of its meetings are open to the public and allow for public comment. As per Illinois State Law, the agendas are published online 48 hours before the meeting occurs at: <http://www.itasca.com/agendacenter> along with their minutes. Once discussions commence, the Finance Committee will then recommend a draft version of the budget to the Village Board for its final approval. The Village Board will then discuss the budget in a public forum, typically twice, before approving the final budget. All Village Board and Committee of the Whole meetings are open to the public and they allow for public comment. In addition to this, at each Village Board meeting the board approves a voucher list, which are the bills that are paid every other week.

And though we do document every bill that is paid (as well as the accounts which they are paid from), we are a small Village, and are not always able to document our decision process for smaller expenditures. Some decisions are internally made and are handled informally, meaning they are discussed within the department, but no one is taking minutes of the internal meeting. However this is not to imply that bills are being paid without being previously being budgeted for or without the board approval's or at a meeting where the public is not able to comment, as all payments are submitted to the Village Board through the voucher list. Further all expenditures over \$5,000, do go before the board for discussion and approval, which is documented through minutes.

I am also sorry that you thought the reasoning behind my suggestion of a phone call was to avoid an undocumented explanation, as that was not my intention. Since public bodies are not required to answer questions under FOIA and it is the Village's practice not to do so, instead of just denying your request, I thought a more appropriate response would be to have you speak directly to the department. In my experience, when there are questions, phone calls tend to be more beneficial, since questions and answers can be more easily expounded on.

We are trying our best to be as transparent and helpful to you as possible. That is why I investigated your particular inquiry further and found out that it was discussed on April 17, 2018 at the Finance Committee. I have attached the presentation that shows at some point during the meeting, when the committee discussed Capital Improvements, the discussion also included fleet replacement with up-fitting (which refers to the logos). This presentation correlates to the budget year that the invoices that I previously sent you are from.

Sincerely,

*Deanne Currelo*

Deputy Clerk/Executive Secretary | Village of Itasca  
550 W Irving Park Road | Itasca, IL 60143  
630.228.5623 direct | Website: [www.itasca.com](http://www.itasca.com)

**From:** Candice A <candice@lucyparsonslabs.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 1, 2019 11:14 AM  
**To:** Deputy Clerk <deputyclerk@itasca.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up Response: FOIA Request 19-174 - Candice Garcia - Due 10/2/19

Deana,

that is fine. I have already contacted Itasca PD, who stated the admin "ran it passed a few officers" and they went with it. From a taxpayer perspective, that is NOT acceptable. It indicates a loose budget, where you're not adequately accounting for funds, or taking the community's preferences into account. You're basically doing whatever you please, not documenting it and unable to elaborate after the fact. It's ironic you will only provide documentation- yet refer me to the PD for (undocumented) explanation. I think it's really irresponsible and disappointing the village I pay taxes to cannot account for how they spend my money or document how the budget is decided. This may just be the tip of the iceberg. It will be interesting to see what else you guys do just as you feel with no vote or decision by the actual people paying for it, the tax payers. I'm not seeing transparency here, and there ought to be better answers and documentation. I feel these vehicles are deceptive, and not friendly towards those with disabilities, and I don't like them parked outside my child's school. They do not say "serve and protect" they say "deceive and extort". THERE NEEDS TO BE DOCUMENTATION ON HOW FUNDS ARE SPENT AND WHERE IT IS ALLOWED IN THE BUDGET. The fact that you claim you don't have them is disturbing to say the least. If I am using the wrong language to request them, I'd suggest letting me know. Itasca can't just spend tax dollars however they please, whenever they please with no affirmation from the tax payers.

Thanks.

On Tue, Oct 1, 2019 at 8:35 AM Deputy Clerk <[deputyclerk@itasca.com](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com)> wrote:

Good Morning Candice,

In response to your inquiry on September 26<sup>th</sup>, I have attached invoices that the Village paid last fiscal year to Suburban Accents. This is the company that provides graphics for all Village vehicles, however the invoices provided are specifically for work completed on Police Department vehicles. The invoices also include the budget account numbers that the Village used to process these invoices. In regards to your question about the determining factors for deciding which vehicles receive new designs, the Village does not have any documentation regarding this. You also inquired about how the overall budget for vehicle redesign is decided. The Village does not have any records indicating how the overall budget for this vehicle redesign are decided. Please note the purpose of a FOIA is to provide requestors documentation, not to respond to questions. If you have specific questions regarding vehicle redesign, I would suggest contacting the Police

Department at 630-228-5702 to inquire further.

Sincerely,

*Deanne Curelo*

Deputy Clerk/Executive Secretary | Village of Itasca  
550 W Irving Park Road | Itasca, IL 60143  
630.228.5623 direct | Website: [www.itasca.com](http://www.itasca.com)

**From:** Candice A <[candice@lucyparsonslabs.com](mailto:candice@lucyparsonslabs.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2019 8:46 PM

**To:** Deputy Clerk <[deputyclerk@itasca.com](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Response: FOIA Request 19-174 - Candice Garcia - Due 10/2/19

I've gone over the budget in detail, specifically pertaining to police department expenses. Which category/subcategory does redesigning police cars fall in to? Are the designs only for brand new vehicles? If so, what determining factors are involved in making this transition. I'd like to request invoices for the funds and how that overall budget is decided.

Thanks, Deanne.

On Thu, Sep 26, 2019, 3:09 PM Deputy Clerk <[deputyclerk@itasca.com](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com)> wrote:

Dear Ms. Garcia:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) dated September 24, 2019 in which you requested:

- Hello, I am requesting the village budget (which Itasca PD has already admitted not being privy to) regarding police squad car redesign, as far as how much the budget is, the frequency of how often it is spent and how designs are decided.

The Village's Budget is available for viewing on our website, which can be found here: <http://www.itasca.com/1925/Village-Budget>

There is no documentation for how car redesigns are decided.

This email and link is intended to be fully responsive to your request. However if I have misunderstood your request in any way, please clarify your request in writing to me.

Sincerely,

*Deanne Curelo*

Deputy Clerk/Executive Secretary | Village of Itasca

550 W Irving Park Road | Itasca, IL 60143  
630.228.5623 direct | Website: [www.itasca.com](http://www.itasca.com)

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**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <[noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 24, 2019 4:09 PM  
**To:** Deputy Clerk <[deputyclerk@itasca.com](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com)>  
**Subject:** FOIA Request 19-174 - Candice Garcia - Due 10/2/19

## Request for Records Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

### Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

*The Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) makes government more transparent to the citizens of Illinois by guaranteeing access to government records in the form in which they are maintained. Generally, the Illinois FOIA provides access to government information while protecting the legitimate interests of government and the privacy rights of citizens.*

### Request for Records Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act

*Use this form to make an Electronic FOIA (E-FOIA) request. The use of this form is voluntary; an alternate form for submission is by letter. The Village may honor oral requests. If you choose to submit a FOIA request electronically, you must complete the fields marked with an "\*". If you do not enter accurate or required information, we may be unable to fulfill your FOIA request.*

### Contact Information

First Name: Candice

Last Name: Garcia

Company name: Lucy Parsons Labs

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Itasca

State: Illinois

Zip Code: 60143

Daytime Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Fax Number: Field not completed.

Email: [candice@lucyparsonslabs.com](mailto:candice@lucyparsonslabs.com)

## Describe the type(s) of document(s) you are requesting

Please describe specifically the documents you are requesting:	Hello, I am requesting the village budget (which Itasca PD has already admitted not being privy to) regarding police squad car redesign, as far as how much the budget is, the frequency of how often it is spent and how designs are decided.
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Select a suitable description of yourself and the purpose of the request:	A. An individual seeking information for personal use and not for commercial use. If the subject matter of your request is yourself, Village staff may contact you to verify your identity.
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### Requests for a Commercial Purpose

*Section 2( c-10) of FOIA defines "commercial purpose" as the use of any part of a public record or records, or information derived from public records, in any form for sale, resale, or solicitation or advertisement for sales or services. For purposes of this definition, requests made by news media and nonprofit, scientific, or academic organizations shall not be considered to be made for a "commercial purpose" when the principal purpose of the request is (i) to access and disseminate information concerning news and current or passing events, (ii) for articles of opinion or features of interest to the public, or (iii) for the purpose of academic, scientific, or public research or education.*

Is this request for commercial purposes?	No
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Are you requesting a fee waiver?	Yes
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Please provide an explanation for the requested fee waiver	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Do you want to inspect the requested records?	Yes
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Do you want physical copies of the requested records?	Yes
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Do you want electronic copies of the requested records?	Yes
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File Upload	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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After you submit this FOIA request, the Village has five days in which to provide an initial response to the requestor, either granted or denied, or will ask for an extension due to a voluminous request. We try our best here at the Village of Itasca to process these requests with respect and timeliness.

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Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

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Candice Ahlstrand  
Lucy Parsons Labs